

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claims 2-10 and 12-27 and claims 1 and 11 have been canceled. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 2-10 and 12-27 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2. Examiner Objections - Claims

Claims 6-10, 16-27 were objected to as being in improper form because of multiple dependencies. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough review of the claims. The Applicant has amended the claims in order to correct the improper form. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

3. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-2, 9, 11-12, 19 and 22-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Reshef* (U. S. Pat. 6,529,559, hereinafter, *Reshef*). The Applicants have cancelled independent claims 1 and 11 rendering the rejections of those claims moot. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of amended claims 2 and 12. Claims 2 and 12 have been amended to incorporate all of the limitations and features of their respective base claims. *Reshef* generally discloses a method of generating a symbol competitor table for use in reducing the complexity of an information packet used to generate soft bit values from soft symbol information for an M-ary symbol alphabet. *Reshef* also discloses a method of reducing a soft output information packet generated by a soft symbol output generator. According to the Examiner, regarding claims 2 and 12, *Reshef* discloses method comprising receiving the communications signal by a receiver module (Rx front end 52), and that the reliability indication is provided by the receiver module. However, *Reshef* fails to disclose or suggest any suitable "reliability indication" from the RX front end 52.

In the present invention, the "receiver module" is seen as block 301 Figure 3, as provided in more detail in Figures 4 or 5. Coupled to the receiver module is a control unit 302 that provides the functionality of providing the claimed reliability indication (see description of Figure 3). No such control unit function is disclosed or suggested by Reshef. Consequently, the Applicant believes claims 2, 9, 12, 19 and 22-30 are also in a condition of allowance. The Examiner's consideration of these claims is respectfully requested.

4. Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant notes with appreciation the conditional allowance of claims 3-8, 10, 13-18, 20-21. As the Examiner has suggested, claims 3-8, 10, 13-18 and 20-21 have been rewritten to include all limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Therefore no amendments have been made to narrow the scope of the pending claims or to create any sort of estoppel.

Consequently, the Applicant believes claims 3-8, 10, 13-18 and 20-21 are also in a condition of allowance. The Examiner's consideration of these claims is also respectfully requested.

5. Prior Art Not Relied Upon

In paragraph 10 on page 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the Applicant's disclosure. None of the cited references, alone, disclose or suggest the present invention, or in combination, suggest the present invention.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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